

Please amend the application filed on even date herewith prior to proceeding with its examination.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) PLGA plasticized with ethanol, obtained with a process comprising the following steps:

- a) grinding PLGA to obtain a ground product in which the particles have dimensions less than 250  $\mu\text{m}$ ;
- b) adding ethanol to the ground product obtained in the preceding step in concentrations between 5 and 20 parts by weight/weight of PLGA and heating the mixture obtained to a temperature between 45 and 65°C, until a viscous and stable gel is obtained;
- c) drying the product coming from step (b),
- d) grinding the dried product obtained at a temperature ranging from -20 and +5°C;
- e) optionally mixing the product originating from the preceding step with PLGA as such which has been previously ground until a ground product of particle size less than 250  $\mu\text{m}$  is obtained, in weight ratios between 10:90 and 99:1, at a temperature between -20 and +5°C,
- f) extruding the aforesaid mixture at 75°C,
- g) grinding the extruded product at a temperature between -20°C and +5°C.

25. (New) Plasticized PLGA as claimed in claim 24, containing ethanol in concentrations between 2 and 15 % by weight on the weight of PLGA.

26. (New) Plasticized PLGA as claimed in claim 25, wherein said ethanol concentrations are comprised between 3 and 10% by weight on the weight of PLGA.

27. (New) Plasticized PLGA as claimed in claim 25, wherein said concentrations are between 5 and 10% by weight on the weight of PLGA.
28. (New) Plasticised PLGA as claimed in claim 24, wherein in step (b) the ethanol is added in a quantity of 10 parts by weight/weight of PLGA.
29. (New) Plasticised PLGA as claimed in claim 24, wherein in step (d) the drying is conducted until obtaining an ethanol concentration in PLGA comprised between 10 and 30%/by weight/PLGA weight.
30. (New) Plasticised PLGA as claimed in claim 29, wherein said ethanol concentration is 20% by weight/PLGA weight.
31. (New) Plasticised PLGA as claimed in claim 29, wherein said drying is carried out at a temperature comprised between 20 and 25°C under an air stream.
32. (New) Plasticised PLGA as claimed in claim 24, wherein the grinding temperature in steps (d), (e) and (g) is -10°C.
33. (New) Plasticised PLGA as claimed in claim 24, wherein in stage (e) the weight ratio of PLGA originating from step (d)/PLGA as such is comprised between 16:84 and 40:60.
34. (New) Subcutaneous implants obtained by extrusion, containing an active principle dispersed in PLGA plasticized with ethanol as claimed in claim 24.
35. (New) Subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 34, containing thermolabile active principles.
36. (New) Subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 35, wherein said thermolabile active principles are selected from the group consisting of proteins, vaccines, antibodies and vectors for genic therapy.

37. (New) A process for preparing a subcutaneous implant obtained by extrusion containing an active principle dispersed in PLGA plasticized with ethanol according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- i) mixing the active principle with the plasticized PLGA as claimed in claim 1 at a temperature between -20°C and +5°C,
- ii) extruding the ground product originating from step i) at a temperature less than 70°C.

38. (New) The process as claimed in claim 37, wherein the temperature of step (i) is -10°C.

39. (New) The process as claimed in claim 37, wherein the temperature of step (ii) is less than 60°C when plasticized PLGA containing ethanol at concentrations between 3 and 4% by weight on the weight of PLGA is used in step i).

40. (New) The process as claimed in claim 38, wherein the temperature of step ii) is equal to 40°C, when plasticized PLGA containing ethanol at concentrations between 5 and 10% by weight/weight of PLGA is used.